



vision

State Recreational Trails Fund

Prepared by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

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Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation



Protect, conserve and enhance
Iowa's natural areas

While also providing for
recreation opportunities and
quality of life.



INHF since 1979...

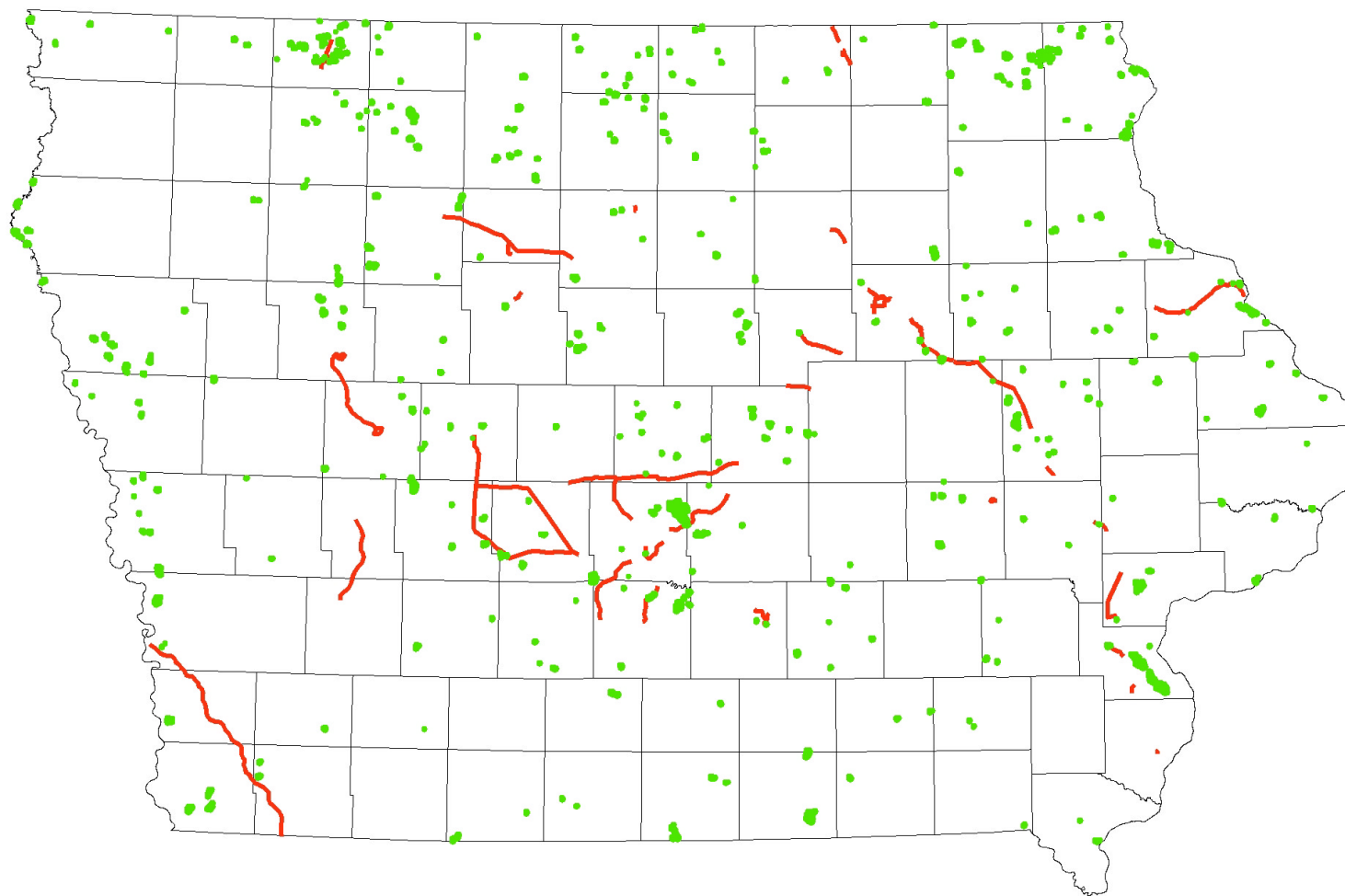
- 100,000 acres protected
- 645 land projects
- 93 of 99 Counties
- Over 160 interns trained
- Nearly 7000 members



Projects continue to get larger, more complex, and more expensive



INHF Land and Trail Projects 1979-2008



 Land Project
 Trail

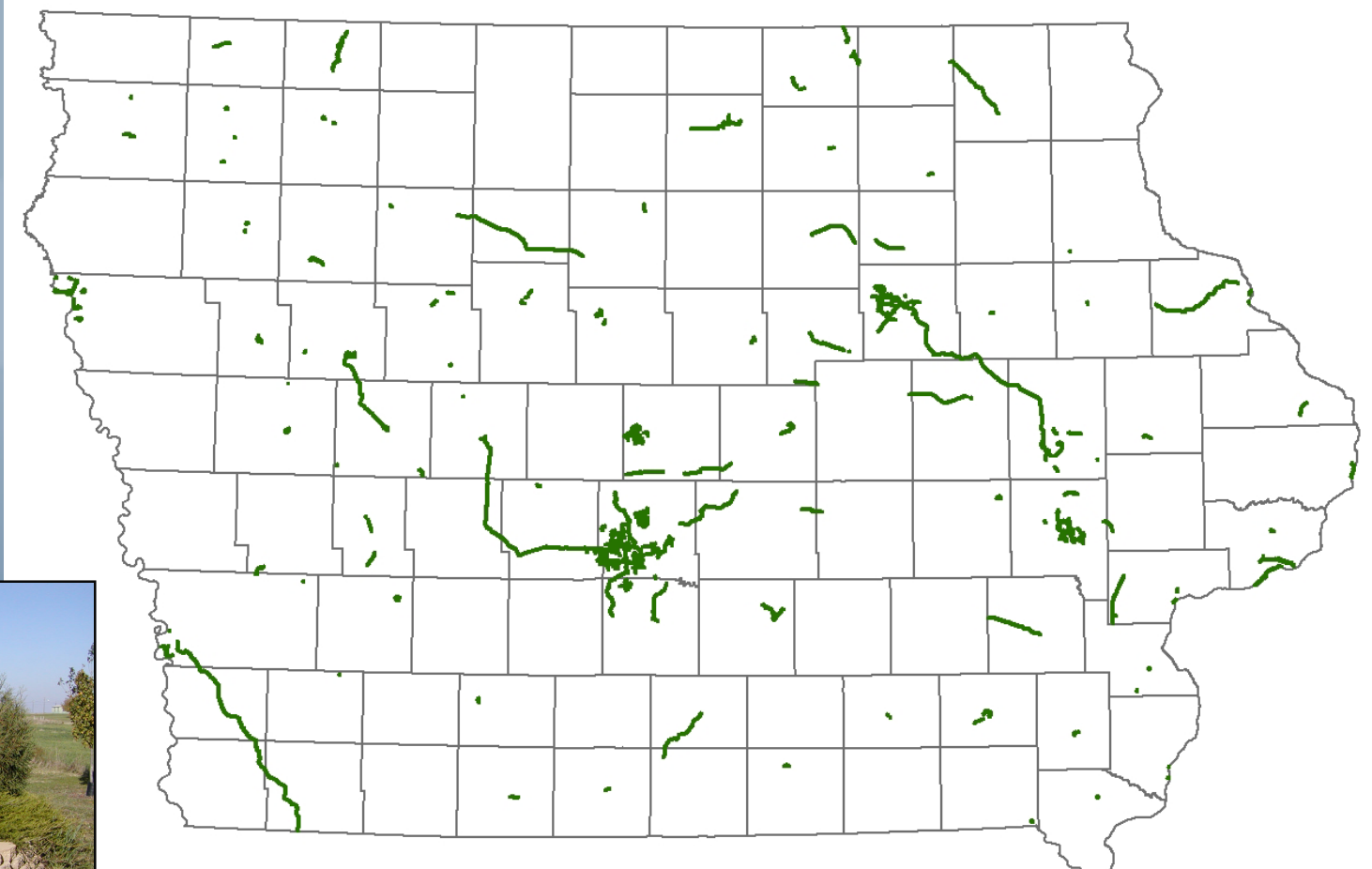


INHF's Trail Contributions...

- Assisted in the acquisition and/or implementation of over 750 miles of trail corridors (mainly rail-trails)
- Helped raise over \$20 million in public and private funds for trails.
- Public policy at the state or federal level
- Participate in regional trail planning efforts
- Provide technical assistance to counties and cities in rail-trail acquisition
- Trails are some of the most difficult projects for an agency to undertake



Existing shared-use paths



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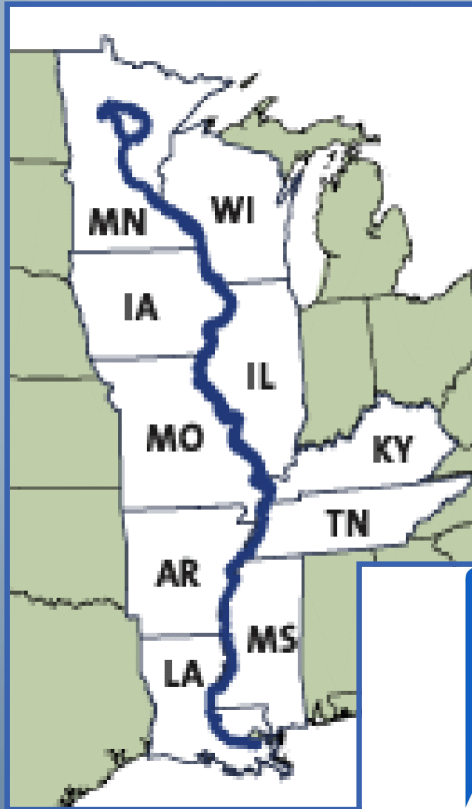
American Discovery Trail

- American Discovery Trail Association
- 512 miles in Iowa
- Completed locally link by link
- 14 individual Iowa Trails are part of the ADT





Mississippi River Trail



- **Minnesota to New Orleans**
- **10 state project**
- **Over 300 miles proposed in Iowa**
- **State, county and local project development**



Riverfront Trail, Davenport



Lewis and Clark Trail



- Federal funding for alignment study
- Corridor to follow Missouri River
- Connecting destinations in Western Iowa

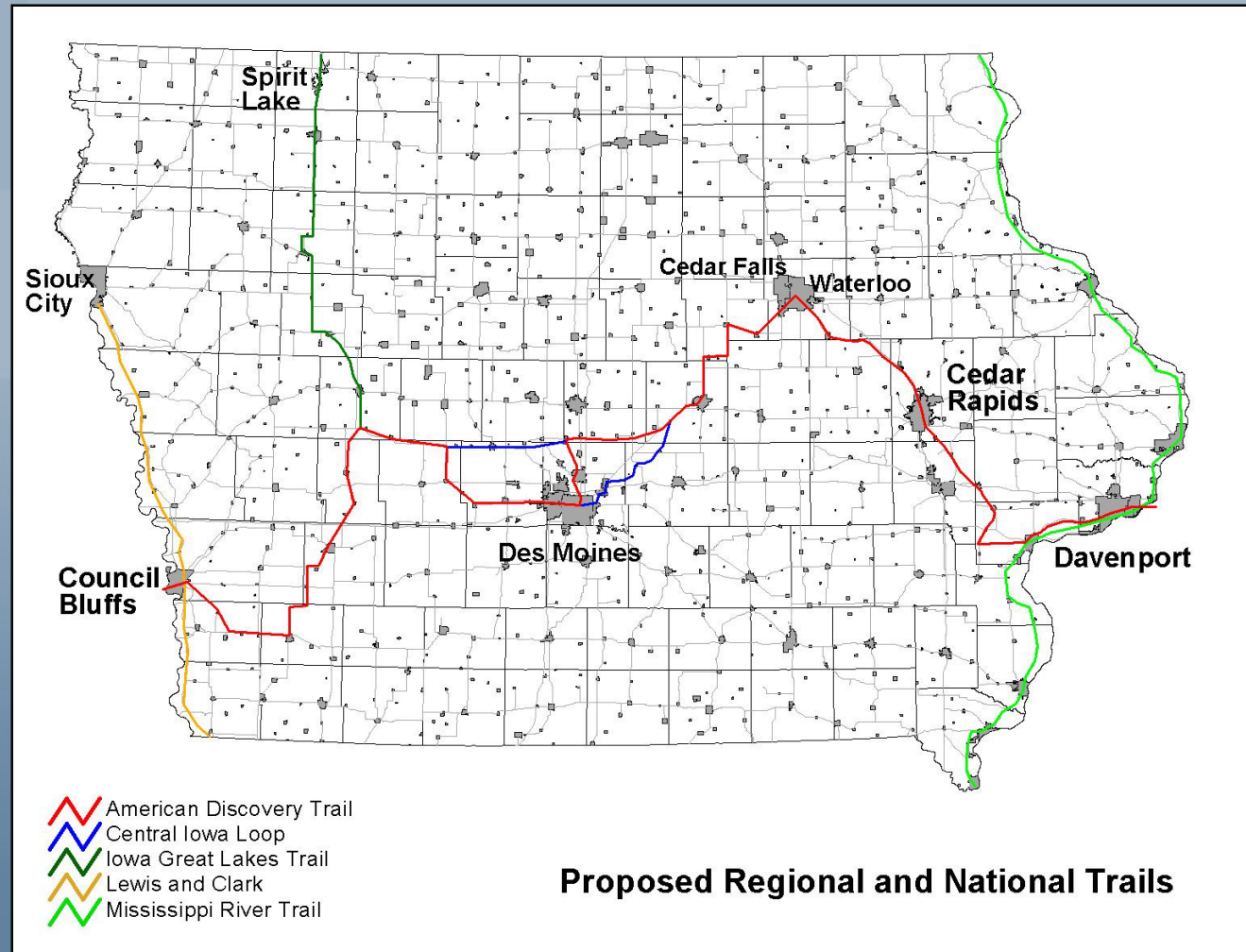


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Statewide Priority Trails





Trails are places for people



Trails are meant to
connect communities,
not bypass them



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Trails provide connection to the outdoors

- 41% of Iowans surveyed have spent time on trails (SCORP 2006)
- 51% surveyed would like to spend more time on trails in the future (SCORP 2006)
- Iowans want to see more trails, wildlife, and opportunities for family orientated activities (SCORP 2006)





Trails create opportunities for volunteers



In 2007, the Federal Interagency on Trails reported more than 720,000 volunteer hours valued at \$13.5 million.



Youth employment opportunities

- Urban Youth Corps Program
- Jobs for 16-21 year olds in economically stressed areas
- Several trail projects actively use this program for maintenance





Environmental Educational Facilities

- 98% of Iowa is privately owned
- Trails offer easy and safe access to the out-of-doors
- Used by local schools and County Conservation Boards





Fitness facilities:

For all ages, incomes, and abilities

- Health diseases related to inactivity: heart disease, obesity, Type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, cancer, hypertension, depression
- \$1 billion annual health care costs related to inactivity (2008)
- Community design considerations supported by the CDC



Every \$1 spent on trail development produces \$3 of public health savings (NE 2005)



Economic Catalyst



- \$1.5 million in economic impact in Linn County alone
- Trails are the most desired amenity of prospective buyers According to the National Association of Homebuilders
- Trails contribute to a competitive and attractive business environment
- Trails diversify local economic opportunities
- \$25 million economic benefit each year to Iowa
- Very little marketing and promotion



State Recreational Trails Program (SRT)

- Provides cost share funding to local government agencies
- Development of non motorized trail facilities
- Funding spread across Iowa
- Requirements:
 - 25% match
 - Maintained 20 years for public use



Qualities of State Rec Trails Program

- Strong partnership with local governments and IDOT
- IDOT administrative rules ease ability for local contractors to compete for projects
- Dollars are managed efficiently allowing projects to move quickly
- Funding available equally to all Iowa communities despite population or project size.



Leverage matching funds (local and federal)

Funding Programs Leveraged

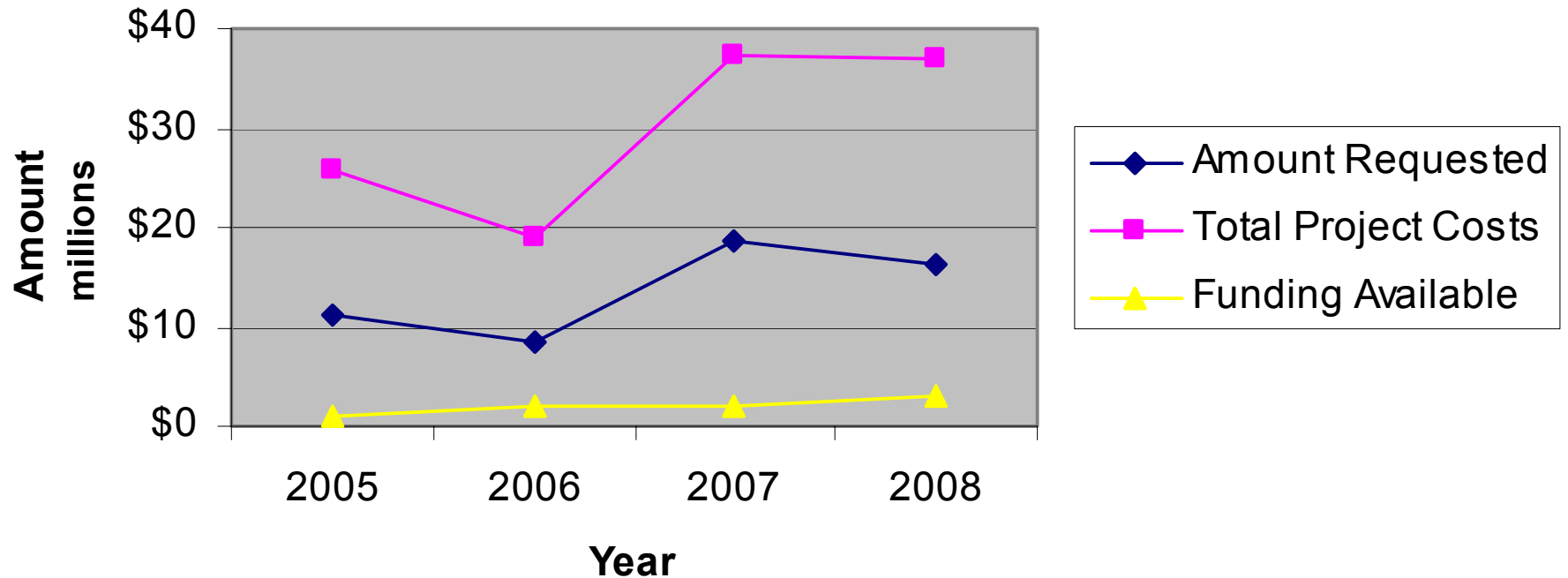
- State Transportation Enhancements
- Regional Transportation Enhancements
- REAP
- Federal Recreational Trails Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Community Attraction and Tourism
- Safe Routes to School
- Local Fundraising





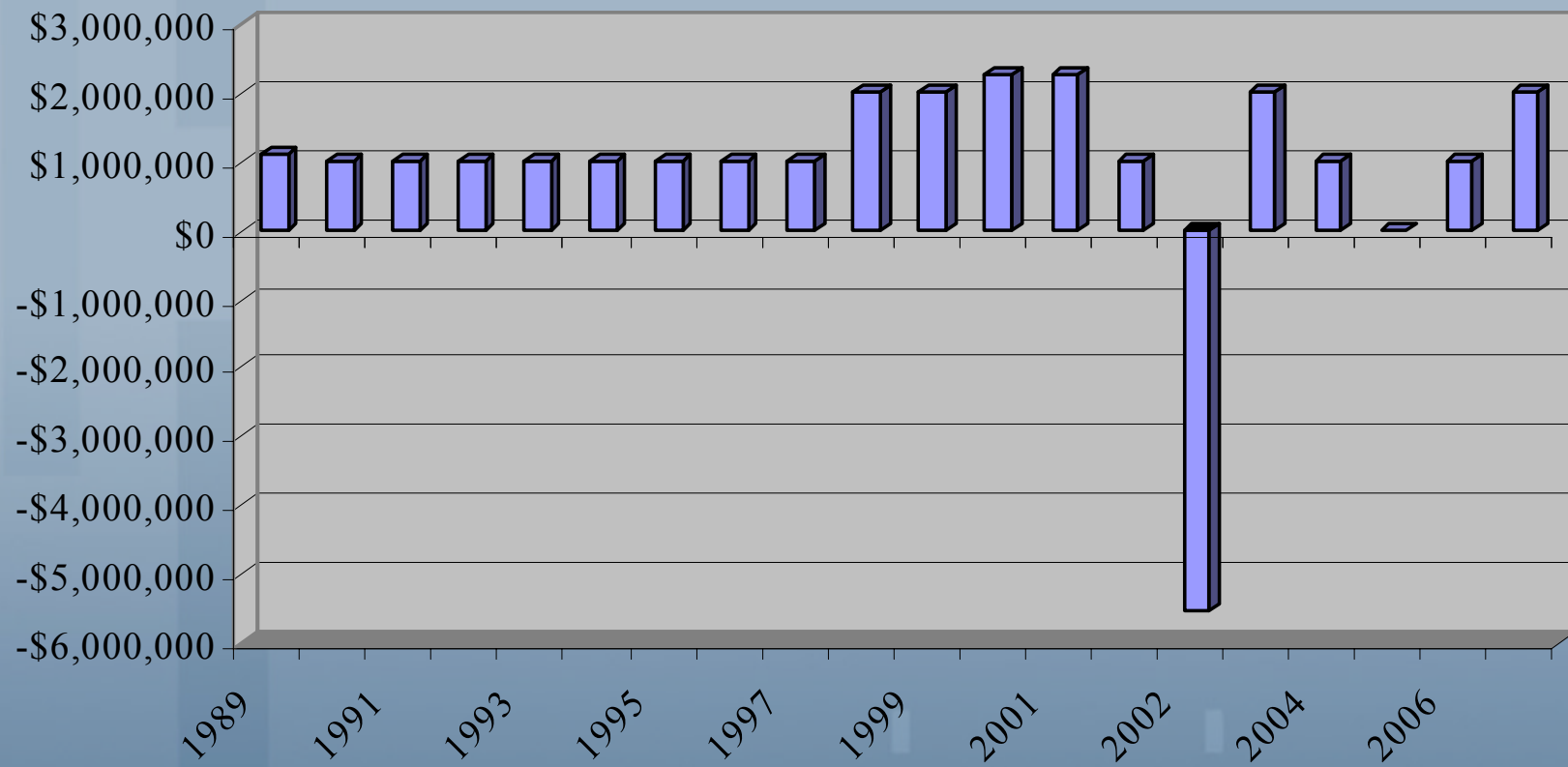
SRT Project Funding

State Recreational Trail Program





Annual SRT Funding levels





Funding Need

- Annual requests to the State Rec Trails (SRT) fund far exceeds capacity (1/6 of requests)
- Nearly \$100 million in trail project requests for stimulus funding
- 2009 IDOT request for SRT: \$3 million



The bottom line

- Fund the State Rec Trails program at \$3 million as requested by IDOT
- Maintain the line item in the budget

Thank You!

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